

The Duties of Practical Christianity, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 12:9-21.
- B. The Lord wants us to live our Christian life practically.
- C. The Christian life is a constant way of living. It is simultaneously confined and freeing. (Ephesians 2)
- D. There are principles for living the Christian life.
- E. Christian living is not mystical.

II. Personal duties.

A. Love without hypocrisy.

1. Love is the supreme thing. (1 Corinthians 13, Romans 13:10)
2. Everything begins with love. (Galatians 5, John 13)
3. Love must be genuine. (2 Corinthians 6; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8)
4. Hypocrisy is the epitome of vice. It is a contradiction to bring it together with love. (1 John 3:14)
5. True love walks the path of real life.
6. The primary deed is love. (1 Corinthians 12-13, John 13)

B. Hating evil.

1. The essential characteristic of God is his holiness. This means that God is completely separate with reference to sin. He cannot look on evil.
2. The one who loves God must hate evil. (Psalm 101, Proverbs 8:13, Jude 20-23, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, Hebrews 1:8)
3. Evil is pride, lies, murders, wicked schemes, speaking falsely and discord. It is false religion. (Proverbs 6:16, Isaiah 1, Psalm 1)
4. The key is to think upon what is good. (Philippians 4:8)
5. A true Christian is one who hates evil and loves righteousness. (Romans 7:15, 17)
6. The good things we cling to are in the Word of God. The mind must be renewed. (Romans 12:2)

Application Questions:

1. What does genuine love look like? Why is this so difficult?

2. In what ways can you grow in your love?

3. What does it mean to be holy? How can you grow in your likeness to God in this way?
